

We claim:

1. A surfactant/solvent system for liquid formulations comprising
  - $\alpha$ ) one or more nonaromatic-based surfactants,
  - 5  $\beta$ ) as solvent, one or more triester(s) of phosphoric acid with alcohols, preferably from the group consisting of
    - 1) monohydric alkanols having 5 to 22 carbon atoms,
    - 2) diols or polyols,
    - 3) aryl, alkylaryl, poly(alkyl)aryl and poly(arylalkyl)aryl alcohols,
    - 10 4) alkoxyated alcohols obtained by reacting the alcohols mentioned above under 1), 2) or 3) with alkylene oxides, and
    - 5) alkoxyated alcohols obtained by reacting monohydric alkanols having 1 to 4 carbon atoms and alkylene oxides.
- 15 2. A surfactant/solvent system as claimed in claim 1 which comprises, as component  $\beta$ ), one or more compounds from the group of
  - alkoxyated short-chain alcohols having 1-22 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical and 1 to 30 alkyleneoxy units in the polyalkyleneoxy moiety which have been reacted completely with ortho-phosphoric acid,
  - 20 - alkyl alcohols having 5 -22 carbon atoms which have been reacted completely with ortho-phosphoric acid,
  - optionally alkoxyated alcohols having 1-22 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical and phenol derivatives, which have been partially reacted with ortho-phosphoric acid, in each case with 0 to 30 alkyleneoxy units in the polyalkyleneoxy moiety, the remaining OH valencies of the ortho-phosphoric acid subsequently having been alkoxyated, and esters of n-octylphosphonic acid which has formally been reacted twice with alcohols.
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- 30 3. A liquid active substance formulation which comprises

- (a) one or more active substances which are insoluble in water or soluble up to a concentration of 10 g/l,
  - (b) the surfactant/solvent system as claimed in claim 1,
  - 5 (c) if appropriate further organic solvents,
  - (d) if appropriate further adjuvants and additives such as further surfactants and/or polymers, and
  - (e) if appropriate water.
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- 10 4. A liquid active substance formulation as claimed in claim 3, which comprises
    - a) 1 to 50% by weight of agrochemical active substances,
    - b) 5 to 80% by weight of the surfactant/solvent system according to claim 1,
    - c) 0 to 40% by weight of further organic solvents,
    - g) 0 to 20% by weight of customary adjuvants and additives other than (f), such
    - 15 as formulation auxiliaries,
    - h) 0 to 96% by weight of water and
    - i) 0 to 30% by weight of further surfactants.
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- 20 5. A liquid active substance formulation as claimed in claim 3 in the form of an emulsifiable concentrate.
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- 6. An emulsifiable concentrate as claimed in claim 5 which comprises
    - a) 10 to 40% by weight of agrochemical active substances,
    - b) 10 to 60% by weight of the surfactant/solvent system according to claim 1,
    - 25 c) 5 to 35% by weight of further organic solvents,
    - d) 0 to 10% by weight of customary adjuvants and additives other than (e), such as formulation auxiliaries and
    - e) 10 to 25% by weight of further surfactants.

7. A liquid active substance formulation as claimed in claim 3, which comprises one or more active substances from the group of the herbicides desmedipham, phenmedipham and ethofumesate.

5 8. A process for the preparation of an active substance formulation as defined in claim 3, wherein the components are mixed with each other.

9. The use of the surfactant/solvent system as claimed in claim 1 in liquid active substance formulations.

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10. The use as claimed in claim 1 in emulsifiable concentrates.

11. A method of controlling undesired vegetation, wherein an effective amount of a liquid active substance formulation as claimed in claim 3 is applied to the plants,  
15 plant parts or area on which the plants grow.

12. The use of a liquid active substance formulation as claimed in claim 3 for controlling undesired vegetation.